

At the meeting called for this evening we hope to hear the question of Confederation discussed in a spirit of moderation and fairness, the views of the various speakers fully ventilated, and the project placed before the public in so lucid a manner that there will be hereafter no excuse for any intelligent person saying he does not understand the question. All the friends of the movement ask is the calm and dispassionate attention of the audience. At present we know the Canadian Government is willing to take us over on fair and equitable terms, notwithstanding our (for us) formidable and rapidly increasing debt. How long they may continue as favorably disposed towards us it is impossible to conjecture. It is very easy for gentlemen to ask for further delay in this matter, but what has the delay on the part of the Government on this very question during the past twelve months brought upon us? An increase of the Colonial debt from \$1,200,000 to nearly \$1,500,000. Another year of such government as the last will swell the figures to nearly \$2,000,000. And how is this enormous indebtedness to be cleared off? If we receive an Imperial guarantee for a new loan it will be upon the security of the revenue of the Colony; but as that revenue is insufficient to meet even the current expenses of Government, to say nothing of the interest on the old debt and the debentures continually falling due, there will be but one course for the local Government to pursue, viz: to increase the Customs duties in a desperate effort to make both ends meet. Of course every business man is aware that the effect of such a policy would be disastrous to the commercial interests of the Colony, and must result in its ruin. But "necessity knows no law," and as there is no loophole so small through which the Government will not endeavor to squeeze its attenuated frame in the vain effort to extricate itself from financial embarrassment and replenish its lank purse, we may expect the "desperate man at war with fortune" who domiciles at New Westminster to adopt even this scheme to tide him over his difficulties until his term of office shall have expired. By Confederation the debt would be assumed by the Confederacy, and the Canadian scale of Customs does (which we publish to-day in another article) coming at once in force, would ensure our merchants a lighter tariff than they now pay. One of the reasons we have heard advanced why we should not join the Confederation is that "Canada will take all our Customs Dues and Postal Revenue." That is true. But what will she do for us in return? She will assume our debt, pay the salaries of our Governor and Judges, our custom-house officers, postmasters, and all other officials engaged in the collection of revenues paid over to the General Government. She will make us a yearly grant from her treasury of at least \$30,000 to defray the expenses of our local government, besides paying us eighty cents for every inhabitant of the Colony. As the system of taxation is indirect, every Indian in the Colony contributes his quota towards the revenues drawn hence by the General Government, and, estimating the entire white and native population at 80,000, we should be entitled to \$64,000 under the per capita arrangement. This is the course pursued towards Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; and British Columbia, forming as she will the pedestal of the grand structure of Confederation, will be satisfied with no less. In this connection it may be as well to state that the annual grant from the General Government to the Province of Ontario defrays all the expenses of her local Government. The people of that Province are not called on to bear a single dollar of taxation in addition to that raised for the purposes of the General Government. Of other provinces we have no information regarding taxation for the support of the local governments; but we think that little if anything is required for that purpose beyond what is paid over by the General Government. In addition to the advantages we have already named, we shall have a title in fee simple to all the Crown lands, minerals, &c., in the Colony; a Responsible Ministry, Free Education, and an Overland Wagon-road, by means of which the hardy sons and daughters of Canada, attracted by our genial climate, may cross the Rocky Mountains and settle down in the fertile plains and valleys of the mainland, and over which we may send the gold of the West in exchange for the products and manufactures of the East. The people of Canada to-day—we say it advisedly—are the freest, the best governed, the lightest taxed and the happiest community, outside of Great

Britain, on the face of the earth. By the admirable constitution under which the Dominion has an existence, all the liberty that can be desired by man is secured and guaranteed with out that license which is too often mistaken for freedom in other countries. The Governor is ruled by his Ministry. The Ministry is essentially a Ministry of the people; if they lose the confidence of those they represent, they must make way for others. Give the people of this Colony such a Government—a Government which every elector will feel a direct interest in having efficiently, honestly and economically administered—give them such a Government, we say, and with all the splendid resources nature has placed at their command, it will be their own fault if an unexampled era of prosperity does not soon dawn upon this misgoverned and despondent land. Continue the present system a twelvemonth longer and the country will sink into a slough of misery from which it will with difficulty be extricated. We therefore earnestly advise our readers to go to the meeting to-night, to listen attentively to any remarks that may be made, and, setting aside prejudice and passion, to vote for Confederation upon terms of equality and fairness.

During the debate in the Dominion Parliament over the Northwest Territory regulations, great stress was laid upon the report of Lieut. Gen. Michel as to the possibility of defending that territory from invasion by a hostile army from the United States. The General was of opinion that in case of a war the Territory could be easily cut off from communication with Canada by any route then known or travelled. He added, however, that surveys required to be made to demonstrate the practicability of opening a road through British territory which did not lie in close proximity to the American border. The General deprecated the proposition of throwing open the territory to settlement at present, and eulogized warmly the just and honorable policy of the Hudson Bay Company in dealing with the Indians. The opposition, as we have stated, quoted plentifully from this report; but it was successfully shown by the Government members that explorations made subsequent to the handing in of the report established the fact that a practicable and defensible route to Red River does exist, and that the country can be successfully held against any assault that may be made upon it from without. Mr. Simpson, who represents Algoma in the House of Commons, and is a member of the Hudson Bay Company, in the course of his able speech on those resolutions, defended the conduct of the Hudson's Bay Company, and thought their rights should be respected. He gave them great praise for their dealings with the Indians, and contrasted the feelings the Indians entertained towards them with the feelings they entertained towards the subjects of the United States. He spoke of the fertility of the soil and the mildness of the climate. Cattle required no shelter in winter, they being fed in yards. It was of the greatest importance that we should go in and possess that country. If we did not, before five years the stars and stripes of the United States would be floating there. The resolutions annexing the territory were carried by a majority of three-fourths, and the Red River settlement is now a member of the Confederacy.

The New Canadian Tariff came into force on the 13th inst., and the Customs Duties are now collected under it for the entire Dominion of Canada. The following are its leading features: All Spirits per gallon, proof, 80s; cordials and perfumed spirits per gallon, proof, \$1 25; malt liquors, in wood, per gallon, 5s; do. do. in bottles, 7s; crude Petroleum, per gallon, 6s; Coal, Kerosene, distilled, purified and refined, and product of petroleum, coal, shale and lignite, per gallon, 10s; naphtha, benzole and refined petroleum, per gallon, 5s; sugar, brown, or white refined, or equal thereto, per hundred lbs., \$3; do. white clayed, or equal thereto per hundred lbs., \$2 60; yellow Muscovado and brown clayed, or equal thereto, per hundred lbs., \$2 25; brown Muscovado, or equal thereto, per hundred lbs., \$1 90; any other not equal thereto, per hundred lbs., \$1; cane juice and syrups, or concentrated molasses, per hundred lbs., \$1 37; maulasses, for refining or manufacturing sugar, per hundred lbs., 75s; for ordinary use, per hundred lbs., 55s; coffee and chicory (green) per lb., 3s; do. (roasted) per lb., 4s; soap, common, per hundred lbs., \$1; starch, per hundred lbs., \$2; cigars, value not over \$10 per M., \$3; do. value not over \$20, \$4; do. value not over \$40, \$6; malt per bushel, 40s; butter per lb., 4s; cheese per lb., 3s; lard and tallow per lb., 1s; fish, salted or smoked, per lb., 1s; flour and meal, of all kinds, per bbl., 25s; grain, all kinds, (except wheat) per bushel, 10s; meal, of all kinds, per lb., 1s; wine, in wood, except Sparkling, not over twenty-six

proof, per gallon, 5s; over twenty-six and not more than forty-two proof per gallon, 5s; wine, in bottles, not more than forty-two proof, quarts, per dozen, \$1 50; do. pints, 75s; wine, Sparkling, in bottles, growth certified, quarts, per dozen, \$3; do. not certified, additional duty, quarts, per doz., \$1; do. pints, 75s; ground spices, mace, nutmegs, perfumery, playing cards and patent medicines, for every hundred dollars of value, twenty-five per cent.; sole and upper leather, for every hundred dollars of value, \$10; tea, black, specific duty per lb., 3s; do. green, including Japan, specific duty per lb., 3s; do. do. ad val., fifteen per cent.; tobacco, manufactured, specific duty per lb., 15s; do. do. ad val., five per cent.; unenumerated articles, fifteen per cent. ad valorem. Free goods same as in Canadian Tariff of 1864.

A Good Suggestion.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—In view of the Public Meeting to be held on Wednesday evening next, it most probably would be too unreasonable to ask you to publish for general information the Imperial Act of Confederation. But it is hoped and expected that the promoters of the meeting will produce a copy of it as an authority to refer to when discussing the matter, and not exhibit, as at the last meeting, the absence of all regularity by assertions being met by counter assertions and not having the necessary document whereby to sustain the one or refute the other. CITIZEN.

Canada and the Northwest.

(From the New York Scotsman.)

The Government of Canada has laid before the Dominion Parliament a series of resolutions pointing to the organization of civil government in the northwestern districts, and their absorption as Provinces into the Confederacy.

The step is taken not one moment too soon. The future of the Dominion as a consolidated British American Power on this continent is in no small degree contingent upon the union of the whole territory now owing allegiance to the Crown. The Dominion must stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or the proportions which are essential to permanence and strength will be wanting. It is no poet's dream, this of a northern nationality; no mere vision of beauty, to lighten and adorn after dinner eloquence, and then to be seen no more.—It is a stern necessity, to be worked for sedulously, with all the ability which Canadian state-manship can possibly command. For let the Dominion terminate in the wilderness which forms the western boundary of Ontario, and what distinctive destiny can Canada hope to achieve? On the contrary, let it be extended to the Pacific—one end of the chain resting, as it were, in the magnificent harbor of Halifax and the other riveted to the foundations of Victoria—what limit can be placed to its internal growth and prosperity?

On every ground, then, it is most important that no further time be lost in consummating plans which ought to have been in operation ten years ago. The consent of the Imperial Authorities is of course requisite in the first instance, but this is a mere formality which in no wise hinders actual work. The adjustment of the Hudson Bay Company's pretensions will be more difficult, though we see in it no insuperable difficulty if approached in the true spirit of statesmen rather than as hucksters intent upon driving a hard bargain. As to the sale of the Company's interests to the Government of the United States, of which mention has been made more than once recently, we may rest assured that the project has no foundation outside of the news-monger's brain.

New Advertisements.

WATCH LOST.
A GOLD WATCH, WITH A Leather guard attached, was lost in the vicinity of Williams' Stable on Monday Evening last. The finder will be handsomely rewarded on leaving it at this office. ja29 1w

THE CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND MEXICO Steamship Company's Steamer Del Norte
CHAS. F. WINSOR, Commander.
Will sail for SAN FRANCISCO, from Brodick's Wharf, on SATURDAY, the 1st of February.
For Freight or Passage apply to
W. F. WALKER, Agent, At Brodick's Wharf.
N.B.—Any passengers found on board after the steamer leaves the wharf, who have not tickets, will be landed on the coast. ja29

THE SAINSEVAIN Wine Bitters is put up only in GLASS.
Any one offering SAINSEVAIN Wine Bitters in Wood, or by the Gallon, is deceiving the public. ja29 1w

REQUISITION.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF VICTORIA.—We, the undersigned, of the City of Victoria, would respectfully request your Worship to call a Public Meeting, in the Theatre, on an early day, for the purpose of inquiring of His Excellency the Governor what progress has been made in the negotiations respecting the admission of the Colony into the Dominion of Canada, and to consider the advisability of taking further steps to accomplish that object.
George J. Findlay, I. W. Powell,
Lorne Ross, Robert Wallace,
Lumley Franklin, J. B. Stewart,
J. H. Turner & Co., and 65 others.

REPLY.

VICTORIA, Jan. 27, 1868.
GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your numerous signed Requisition asking me to call a Public Meeting for the purpose of inquiring of His Excellency the Governor what progress has been made in the negotiations respecting the admission of the Colony into the Dominion of Canada, and to consider the advisability of taking further steps to accomplish that object, I have the honor to be, yours, &c.,
JAS. TRIMBLE, Mayor of Victoria.
To Messrs. Geo. J. Findlay, I. W. Powell, Lorne Ross, Robert Wallace, Lumley Franklin, J. B. Stewart, J. H. Turner & Co., and others. ja29 1w

FOR CASH! FOR CASH!

VICTORIA HOUSE.

SELLING OFF WINTER STOCK

The Proprietors having determined upon closing out at once
The Balance of their Winter Stock,
Offer the same to the Public at rates

CONSIDERABLY BELOW COST OF IMPORTATION!

The Goods in question are mostly NEW GOODS, just received from London, and are only offered at these rates in consequence of their arrival so late in the season.

WM. DENNY, Manager.

FOR CASH! FOR CASH!

Scotch House.

A. M'LEAN & CO.
GENERAL OUTFITTERS,

Begin to intimate that they have received

A very Choice Assortment of Goods for the Winter and Fall Trade, comprising:

Gentlemen's Clothing,
Underclothing,
Baltic and White Shirts,
Waterproof Coats,
Hats, Boots, &c., &c., &c.

—ALSO—

BOYS' CLOTHING,

In Suits, Pants & Inverness Capes in great variety

All which they can with confidence recommend, and would solicit an early inspection of the same, as they will be sold at the smallest possible advance on English cost, to make room for other shipments. ja11 2m

BEST CLOTHING STORE
OPPOSITE POST OFFICE,

W. WILSON'S.

CLOTHING
—AND—
UNDERCLOTHING

BEST VALUE, BEST QUALITY,
LARGEST ASSORTMENT
RECEIVED LAST STEAMER.

Birmingham House,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL HARDWARE STORE,
Fort Street (opposite Broad Street).

The above Establishment was OPENED on MONDAY, 9th December, with a Full and General Assortment of

ENGLISH & AMERICAN HARDWARE

Just received per "MERCARA," from Liverpool, and ex late arrivals from San Francisco, comprising in part as follows:

Filters,	E. P. Cruet Frames,
Sponge and Hip Baths,	E. P. Tea and Coffee Services,
Coal Vases, &c.	E. P. Spoons and Forks,
Nursery Fenders.	E. P. Candlesticks,
Fire Guards,	Moderator Globes and Chimnies,
Enamelled Ware,	Coal Oil Lamps, &c.
China Candlesticks,	Bar Tumblers,
Toilet Cans,	Boilers, from 16 to 50 gallons,
Skittles,	Brushes and Brooms,
Lanterns of all kinds,	Cutlery.

And every description of Carpenter's and Builder's Hardware and Tools.

KENT & EVANS,
Managers.

S.T-1860-X.

A great French physician says: "More than half of the disease in the world comes from neglect to fortify the system against changes of climate, weather and food. The great secret of health is to keep the condition of the stomach and blood regular and uniform, so that changes from heat to cold, from dry to damp, etc., cannot upset the machinery of the body and breed disease."

No, it is a fact, positive and well-known, that there is no such bulwark and assistant for the stomach as

PLANTATION BITTERS.

This splendid Tonic is now used by all classes of people for every symptom of a "Stomach out of order." The secret of it is this: Plantation Bitters are certain to correct the juices of the stomach, set all its machinery at work and enable it to resist and throw off the approaching danger. The tendency of the operations of Nature is always towards a cure; all she needs is a little assistance at the proper time. How much more reasonable and sensible it is to help her along with a gentle, yet powerful Tonic, than to deluge and weaken and defeat her curative processes with poisonous drugs and fiery mixtures, which only supply and plant the seeds of disease and death.

Important Certificates:

"... I owe much to you, for I verily believe the Plantation Bitters have saved my life."
REV. W. H. WAGGONER, Madrid, N.Y."

"... Thou wilt send me two bottles more of thy Plantation Bitters, as my wife has been greatly benefited by their use. Thy friend,
ASA CURRIE, Philadelphia, Pa."

"... I have been a great sufferer from Dyspepsia, and had to abandon preaching. ... The Plantation Bitters have cured me."
REV. J. S. CATBORN, Rochester, N.Y."

"... I have given the Plantation Bitters to hundreds of our disabled soldiers with the most astonishing effect."
G. W. D. ANDREWS,
Superintendent Soldiers' Home, Cincinnati, O."

The Plantation Bitters make the weak strong, the languid brilliant, and the exhausted Nature's great restorer. The public may rest assured that in no case will the perfectly pure standard of the PLANTATION BITTERS be departed from. Every bottle bears the fac-simile of our signature on a steel plate engraving, or it cannot be genuine.

Any person pretending to sell PLANTATION BITTERS in bulk or by the gallon, is a swindler and impostor. Beware of cheap bottles, see that our Private Stamp is UNMUTILATED over every cork.

Sold by all Druggists, Grocers and Dealers throughout the world.

P. H. DRAKE & Co., New York,
Sole Proprietors.

REDDINGTON & Co.,
416 and 418 Front street, San Francisco,
Agents for California and Nevada.

FLEAS.

LYON'S MAGNETIC INSECT POWDER is sure and certain death to every kind of the insect species—Fleas, Roaches, Mosquitoes, Ants, Bugs.

IT KILLS INSTANTLY.

What is peculiarly surprising in regard to this article is, that notwithstanding its instant death to insects, it is perfectly harmless to mankind and domestic animals. It can be inhaled or eaten with impunity. It leaves the testimony of eminent disinterested chemists that it is

FREE FROM POISON.

No article has ever given such positive satisfaction in its use.

Its reputation is well known. It is easily and readily used—directions accompany each flask. Beware of counterfeits.

The genuine has the signature of E. LYON, and the private stamp of DEWAR BAKERS & Co. Anything else of this kind is an imitation or counterfeit. Any druggist will procure the genuine if you insist you will have no other.

Sold by all Druggists and dealers on the Pacific coast.

MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT.

It is an admitted fact that the Mexican Mustang Liniment performs more cures in shorter time, on man and beast, than any article ever discovered.

All genuine is wrapped in a complete engraving, bearing the signature of J. W. Westbrook, Chemist, and the private stamp of DEWAR BAKERS & Co. over the top stone via cable. Look closely.

An effort has been made to counterfeit it with a cheap stone via cable. Look closely.

Sold by all Druggists and Dealers in every town and mining camp on Pacific coast. ja29 1/2p 1af

